Drive Safe With Emergency Vehicles

Q: What do I do when an emergency vehicle is approaching using lights and sirens?

A: Stay calm and remember S-I-R-E-N:

S: Stay Alert

Drive defensively. Keep the noise level down in your car. Look for more than one approaching emergency vehicle.

I: Investigate

Check your rear-view mirror. Scan in front and on both sides of your vehicle. Try to estimate the closing speed of the emergency vehicle and plan your next move.

R: React

React quickly. Before pulling over, scan in all directions. Always use a turn signal when exiting the roadway. Don't suddenly slam on the brakes or pull over.

E: Enter

Before re-entering the roadway, make a visual sweep in all directions. Turn on your signal and gradually merge back into traffic.

N: Never

Don't stop at a place that doesn't have enough room to pull over safely. Never follow or try to outrun an emergency vehicle.

Q: What do I do when an emergency vehicle is on the side of the road?

A: Move over!

South Carolina law requires drivers to reduce speed and, if safe to do so, move over into an adjacent lane when passing stationary emergency vehicles, including tow trucks and recovery vehicles.



SC was the first state to enact a "Move Over" law in 1996. Now, all 50 states have a "Move Over" law.